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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : Darryn McDade, et al.
U.S. Serial No. : 09/207,136
Filed : December 8, 1998
For : SYSTEM AND APPARATUS FOR DIGITAL AUDIO/VIDEO
DECODER SPLITTING SIGNAL INTO COMPONENT DATA
STREAMS FOR RENDERING AT LEAST TWO VIDEO
SIGNALS (AS AMENDED)
Group No. : 2621
Examiner : Huy Thanh Nguyen
Confirmation No. : 6383

MAIL STOP APPEAL BRIEF – PATENTS

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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APPEAL BRIEF

This Appeal Brief is being submitted pursuant to the Notice of Appeal filed on February 16, 2010. No further fees are believed to be necessary; however, in the event that any additional fees are required for the prosecution of this application, please charge any necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

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REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest for this appeal is the assignee of the application,
STMicroelectronics, Inc.

RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no known appeals or interferences that will directly affect, be directly affected by, or have a bearing on the Board's decision in this pending appeal.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-8, 11-20, 25-27 and 31-33 are pending and have been rejected by the final Office Action dated November 16, 2009. Claims 9-10, 21-24 and 28-30 have been canceled. Claims 1-8, 11-20, 25-27 and 31-33 are presented for appeal.

STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

No amendments were submitted following the final Office Action dated November 16, 2009.

SUMMARY OF THE CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The following summary refers to disclosed embodiments and their advantages but does not delimit any of the claimed inventions.

In General

The claimed subject matter relates generally to audio/video decoding.

Support for Independent Claims

Note that, per 37 C.F.R. § 41.37, only the independent claims are discussed in this section. The discussion of the claims in this section is for illustrative purposes and is not intended to affect the scope of the claims.

In one embodiment corresponding to claim 1, the claimed subject matter includes a file reader 310 capable of obtaining any of one or more files containing encoded audio/video data streams from a data source 32, a file navigator 318 enabling selection of a particular file on the data source 32 and instructing the file reader 310 to obtain a selected encoded audio/video data stream from a corresponding file on the data source 32 and a splitter 310 separating the encoded audio/video data stream obtained by the file reader into one or more component data streams 322, 324 and 326:

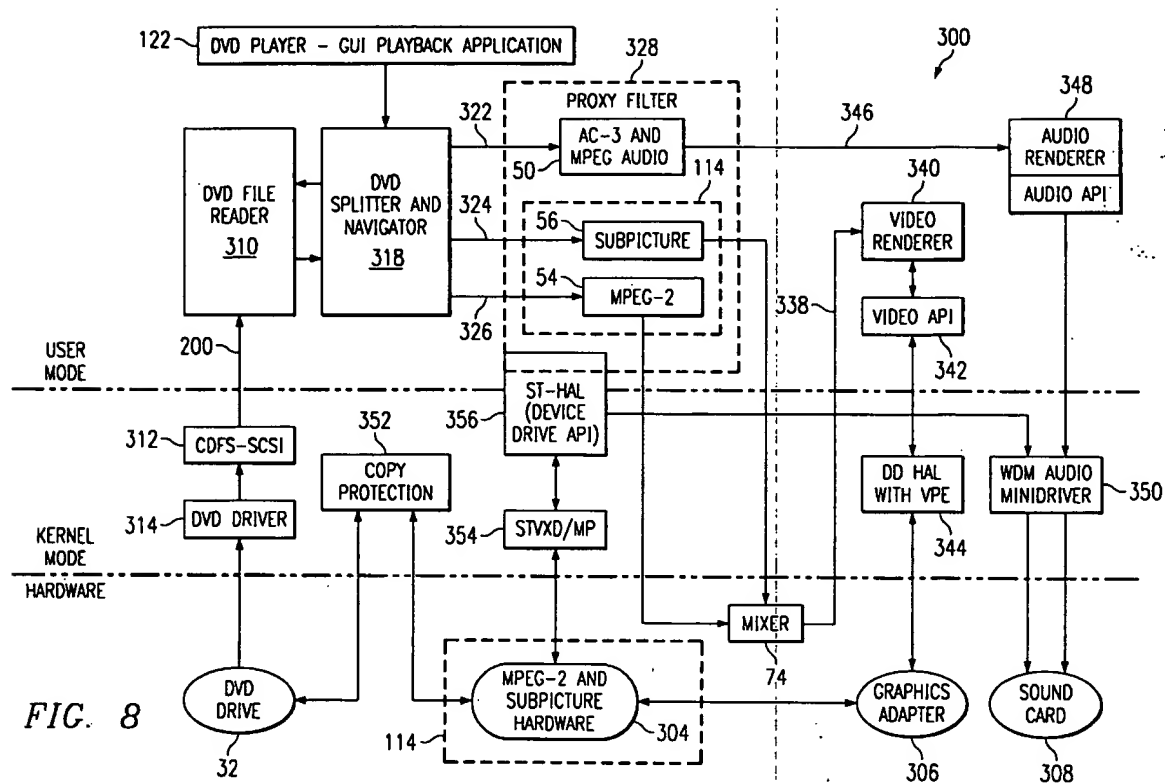


FIG. 8

Specification, Figure 8, page 23, line 17-20. A video application program interface 342 provides data for presenting a list of the one or more files to a user and enabling the user to select from among the one or more files. Specification, page 26, lines 7-16. A reprogrammable proxy filter 328 receiving the component data streams 322, 324 and 326 is reprogrammable to accommodate any combination of any one of MPEG-1, MPEG-2 and MPEG-3 video data with any one of AC-3, MPEG or PCM audio data and adapted to programmably operate on video data coded according to any one of a plurality of video data coding standards and on audio data separately coded according to any one of a plurality of audio data coding standards. Specification, page 22, lines 8-19, page 24, lines 4-6 and 10-15. The proxy filter 328 decodes and converts the component data streams 322, 324 and 326 into three or more renderable signals including at least one renderable audio signal and at least two renderable video signals. Specification, page 24, lines 11-13, page 25, lines 16-22.

In a second embodiment corresponding to independent claim 20, a digital audio/video decoder includes a file reader 310 capable of obtaining any of one or more files containing encoded audio/video data streams from a data source 32, a navigator 318 enabling selection of a particular file on the data source 32 and instructing the file reader 310 to obtain a selected encoded audio/video data stream from a corresponding file on the data source, and a user interface 122 connected to the navigator 318 and having one or more predefined functions for selecting an encoded audio/video data stream to be obtained. Specification, Figure 8, page 22, line 20 to page 23, line 5, page 23, line 17-20. A splitter 310 separates the encoded audio/video data stream obtained by the file reader into an audio data stream 322, a video data stream 326, a subpicture data stream 324 and a navigation data stream, with the navigator 318 coupled to the splitter 310 such that the navigator 318 can use the navigation data stream to select the encoded audio/video data stream to be obtained. Specification, page 23, lines 17-20, page 24, lines 7-9. An audio filter 50 adapted to programmably operate on audio data coded according to any one of a plurality of audio data coding standards decodes and converts the audio data stream 322 into a renderable audio signal. Specification, page 22, line 8 to page 23, line 5, page 23, lines 5-6 and 10-15, page 25, lines 3-5 and 9-15. A video application program interface 342 provides data for presenting a list of the one or more files to a user and enabling the user to select from among the one or more files. Specification, page 26, lines 7-16. A video filter 54 adapted to programmably operate on video data coded according to any one of a plurality of video data coding standards separately of an audio data coding standard currently employed by the audio filter decodes and converts the video data stream 326 into a renderable video signal. Specification, page 22, line 8 to page 23, line 5, page 23, lines 5-6 and 10-15, page 25, lines 5-19. The video filter 54 and the audio filter 50 are reprogrammable to accommodate any combination of any one of MPEG-1,

MPEG-2 and MPEG-3 video data with any one of AC-3, MPEG or PCM audio data. Specification, page 24, lines 4-6 and 10-15, page 25, lines 13-15. A subpicture filter 56 decodes and converts the subpicture data stream 324 into a renderable subpicture signal. Specification, page 25, lines 20-21. A mixer 74 combines the renderable subpicture signal with the renderable video signal and producing a combined video signal 338. Specification, page 25, line 21 to page 26, line 6. A synchronizing filter synchronizes the renderable audio signal and the combined video signal. Specification, page 16, lines 2-5, page 27, lines 1-3. An audio renderer 348 coupled to the audio decoder 50 and an audio application program interface controls the manipulation and rendering of an audio signal from the renderable audio signal. Specification, page 26, line 20 to page 27, line 1. A video renderer 340 coupled to the mixer 74 and a video application program interface 342 controls the manipulation and rendering of a video signal from the combined video signal 338. Specification, page 26, lines 7-16.

In a third embodiment of the claimed subject matter, corresponding to independent claim 25, a digital audio/video system comprises a DVD drive 32, a file reader 310 communicably coupled to the DVD drive 32 to obtain any of one or more files containing encoded audio/video data streams from the DVD drive utilizing a file system, and a navigator 318 communicably coupled to the file reader 310 enabling selection of a particular file on the DVD drive 32 and selectively instructing the file reader 310 to obtain a particular encoded audio/video data stream corresponding to a selected file from the DVD drive. Specification, Figure 8, page 23, line 17-20. A video application program interface 342 provides data for presenting a list of the one or more files to a user and enabling the user to select from among the one or more files. Specification, page 26, lines 7-16. A splitter 318 communicably coupled to the file reader 310 separates the encoded audio/video data stream into one or more data streams 322, 324, and 326,

and a reprogrammable proxy filter 328 communicably coupled to the splitter 310, reprogrammable to accommodate any combination of any one of MPEG-1, MPEG-2 and MPEG-3 video data with any one of AC-3, MPEG or PCN audio data, is adapted to programmably operate on video data coded according to any one of a plurality of video data coding standards and separately on audio data coded according to any one of a plurality of audio data coding standards. Specification, page 22, lines 8-19, page 24, lines 4-6 and 10-15. The proxy filter 328 decodes and converts the component data streams 322, 324 and 326 into three or more renderable signals including at least one renderable audio signal and at least two renderable video signals. Specification, page 24, lines 11-13, page 25, lines 16-22. A mixer 74 communicably coupled to the reprogrammable proxy filter 328 combines the at least two renderable video signals and producing a combined video signal 338. Specification, page 25, line 21 to page 26, line 6. An audio renderer 348 coupled to the reprogrammable proxy filter 328 and an audio application program interface controls the manipulation and rendering of the at least one renderable audio signal 346. Specification, page 26, line 20 to page 27, line 1. A video renderer 340 coupled to the mixer 74 and a video application program interface 342 controls the manipulation and rendering of a video signal from the combined video signal 338. Specification, page 26, lines 7-16.

GROUND OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

1. Claims 1-8, 11-17, 19-20, 25-27 and 31-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,745,643 to *Mishina* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,592,450 to *Yonemitsu* and U.S. Patent No. 5,262,875 to *Mincer*.

2. Claims 18 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over *Mishina* in view of *Yonemitsu* and *Mincer*, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,642,171 to *Baumgartner et al.*

ARGUMENT

1. GROUND OF REJECTION #1

Claims 1-8, 11-17, 19-20, 25-27 and 31-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over *Mishina* in view of *Yonemitsu* and *Mincer*.

In *ex parte* examination of patent applications, the Patent Office bears the burden of establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness. MPEP § 2142, p. 2100-127 (8th ed. rev. 7 July 2008). Absent such a *prima facie* case, the applicant is under no obligation to produce evidence of nonobviousness. *Id.*

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met: First, there must be some reason – such as a suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art – to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. MPEP § 2142, pp. 2100-127 to 2100-128 (8th ed. rev. 7 July 2008); MPEP § 2143, pp. 2100-128 to 2100-139; MPEP § 2143.01, pp. 2100-139 to 2100-141. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. MPEP § 2143.02, pp. 2100-141 to 2100-142 (8th ed. rev. 7 July 2008). Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. MPEP § 2143.02, pp. 2100-141 to 2100-142 (8th ed. rev. 7 July 2008).

Claims 1-8, 11-17, 19-20, 25-27 and 31-23

Independent claims 1, 20 and 25 each recite a video application program interface providing data for presenting a list of the one or more files to a user and enabling the user to select from among the one or more files. Such a feature is not found in the cited references.

The final rejection asserts that this feature is found in *Mishina* at column 7, lines 4-35 and 60-65. Paper No. 20091108, page 7. However, the cited portion of *Mishina* reads (taken in context):

The system CPU section 50 of FIG. 1 supplies to the servo processing circuit 44 a control signal serving as an access signal. In response to the control signal, the servo processing circuit 44 supplies a head-moving signal to the feed motor driving circuit 37, which supplies a driving signal to the feed motor 33. Then, the feed motor 33 is driven, causing the optical head 32 to traverse over the optical disk 10. Then, the optical head 32 accesses a specific sector formed at the recording layer 16 of the optical disk 10. The playback data is reproduced from the specific sector by the optical head 32, which then supplies it to the head amplifier 40. The head amplifier 40 amplifies the reproduced data, which is outputted at the disk drive section 30.

The reproduced data is stored in the data RAM section 56 by the system processor section 54 under the supervision of the system CPU section 50 controlled by the programs stored in the system ROM/RAM section 52. The stored reproduced data is processed at the system processor section 54, which sorts the data into video data, audio data, and sub-picture data, which are supplied to the video decoder section 58, audio decoder section 60, and sub-picture decoder section 62, respectively, and are decoded at the respective decoders. The D/A and data-reproducing section 64 converts the decoded video data, audio data, and sub-picture data into an analog video signal, an analog audio signal, and an analog sub-picture signal and supplies the resulting video signal to the monitor 6 and the resulting audio signal to the speaker 8. Then, on the basis of the video signal and sub-picture signal, images are displayed on the monitor section 6 and according to the audio signal, sound is simultaneously reproduced at the speaker section 8.

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The file structure area 70 corresponds to a management area determined in micro UDF or ISO 9660. According to the description in the management area, the video manager 71 is stored in the system ROM/RAM section 52. As explained with reference to FIG. 5, the information used to manage video title sets is written in the video manager, which is composed of a plurality of files 74, starting with file #0. In each video title set (VTS) 72, compressed video data, compressed audio data, compressed sub-picture data, and the playback information about these data items are stored as explained later. Each video title set is composed of a plurality of files 74. The number of video title sets is limited to 99 maximum. Furthermore, the number of files 74 (from File #j to File #j+9) constituting each video title set is determined to be 10 maximum. These files are also partitioned at the boundaries between logical sectors.

Mishina, column 7, lines 4-35 and column 7, line 61 to column 8, line 9. Nothing in the above-

quoted portion of *Mishina* indicates that the video manager 71 stored in the system ROM/RAM section 52 is operable to provide data for presenting a list of the one or more files to a user and to enable the user to select from among the one or more files. Instead, *Mishina* teaches that a video title is stored as a plurality of files partitioned at the boundaries between logical sectors of the storage media, and that the video manager merely coordinates sequencing through those files in order to present the entire video title.

Independent claim 1 further recites a file navigator enabling selection of a particular file on the data source in response to user selection of the particular file and instructing the file reader to obtain a selected encoded audio/video data stream from a corresponding file on the data source. Independent claim 20 similarly recites a navigator enabling selection of a particular file on the data source in response to user selection of the particular file and instructing the file reader to obtain a selected encoded audio/video data stream from a corresponding file on the data source. Independent claim 25 recites a navigator communicably coupled to the file reader enabling selection of a particular file on the data source in response to user selection of the particular file and selectively instructing the file reader to obtain a particular encoded audio/video data stream corresponding to a selected file from the DVD drive. Such a feature is not found in the cited references.

The final rejection equates the video manager 71 in *Mishina* with the recited limitation. However, the cited portion of *Mishina* reads:

The volume management information contains at least three tables 78, 79, 80 in the order shown in FIG. 5. Each of these tables 78, 79, 80 is aligned with the boundaries between logical sectors. A first table, a video manger information management table (VMGI__MAT) 78, is a mandatory table, in which the size of the video manager 71, the start address of each piece of the information in the video manger 71, and the start address of and the attribute information about the video object set (VMGM__VOBS) 76 for a video manager menu are written. As explained later, the attribute information includes the video attribute information,

the audio attribute information, and the sub-picture attribute information. According to these pieces of attribute information, the modes of the decoders 58, 60, 62 are changed, thereby enabling the video object set (VMGM__VOBS) 76 to be reproduced in a suitable mode.

Written in a second table of the video manager 71, a title search pointer table (TT__SRPT) 79, are the start addresses of the video titles stored on the optical disk that are selectable according to a title number entered from the key/display section 4 on the apparatus.

Mishina, column 10, lines 5-25. Thus, while the video manager 71 maintains data on which files comprise a particular video title (partition based on logical boundaries on the storage media), the video manager only enables selection of “video titles stored on the optical disk,” not selection of individual files.

Independent claim 1 recites a reprogrammable proxy filter that is reprogrammable to accommodate any combination of any one of MPEG-1, MPEG-2 and MPEG-3 video data with any one of AC-3, MPEG or PCM audio data. Independent claim 20 similarly recites that the video filter and the audio filter are reprogrammable to accommodate any combination of any one of MPEG-1, MPEG-2 and MPEG-3 video data with any one of AC-3, MPEG or PCM audio data. Independent claim 25 recites a reprogrammable proxy filter communicably coupled to the splitter that is reprogrammable to accommodate any combination of any one of MPEG-1, MPEG-2 and MPEG-3 video data with any one of AC-3, MPEG or PCN audio data. Such a feature is not found in the cited references.

The portion of *Mincer* cited in the final rejection as disclosing this feature reads (taken in context):

The compression method employed in connection with the transmitted audio/video program information may comprise, for example, Intel's DVI method, Phillips' CD-I method, compression by C-Cube Microsystems, compression by General Instruments, proposed still-frame compression standard JPEG, or proposed motion-picture compression standard MPEG. After it is received by transceiver 10, the compressed digital audio/video program information is stored in storage unit 15. Playback units 41, 42 . . . 4n employ a decompression

technique that corresponds to the compression technique employed in connection with the compressed digital audio/video program information stored in storage unit 15. In fact, it is preferred to store digital audio/video program information in accordance with any known compression method and to provide at least one of the playback units 41, 42 . . . 4n with the ability to decompress any such stored compressed digital audio/video program information. This ability may be accomplished by designing playback units 41, 42 . . . 4n to programmably decompress digital audio/video program information previously compressed in accordance with any of a number of compression techniques. Alternatively, different types of playback units 41, 42 . . . 4n may be provided, each of which is capable of decompressing digital audio/video program information previously compressed in accordance with a particular compression different technique. In the latter case, processor 20 is operative for directing playback of compressed digital audio/video program information only to compatible ones of playback units 41, 42 . . . 4n.

. . . .

The details of one of playback units 41, 42 . . . 4n may be understood with reference to FIG. 2. Playback units 41, 42 . . . 4n may comprise any of a number of commercially available digital audio/video playback products, including those marketed by Intel, IBM, and Fluent Machines, for example. Each of the playback units 41, 42 . . . 4n comprises a controller 110, a buffer 120, a bus 130, a CPU 140, a decompressor 150, and a DAC 160. Compressed digital audio/video program information is received by a selected one of the playback units 41, 42 . . . 4n via digital input 170. Uncompressed real-time digital audio/video program information is provided on output line 180. The same digital audio/video program information may be routed to DAC 160 for digital-to-analog conversion controlled by CPU 140. The resultant analog audio/video program information is provided on output line 190.

Mincer, column 5, line 16-46, column 6, lines 9-25. *Mincer* thus discloses separate playback units for difference compression techniques, and contains no teaching or suggestion of being configured to accommodate any combination of any one of MPEG-1, MPEG-2 and MPEG-3 video data with any one of AC-3, MPEG or PCM audio data.

Claims 1-8, 11-17, 19, 25-27 and 31-23

Independent claim 1 recites a reprogrammable proxy filter that is adapted to programmably operate on video data coded according to any one of a plurality of video data coding standards and on audio data separately coded according to any one of a plurality of audio data coding standards. Independent claim 25 recites a reprogrammable proxy filter that is

adapted to programmably operate on video data coded according to any one of a plurality of video data coding standards and separately on audio data coded according to any one of a plurality of audio data coding standards. Such a feature is not found in the cited references.

The portion of *Mincer* (column 5, lines 34-37, column 6, lines 15-60) cited in the final rejection as satisfying this feature is reproduced above. Nothing in that portion of *Mincer* suggests operating on video data coded according to any one of a plurality of video data coding standards and separately on audio data coded according to any one of a plurality of audio data coding standards.

Claims 2 and 26

Claim 2 recites a user interface connected to the file navigator for selecting a file containing the encoded audio/video data stream to be obtained. Claim 26 similarly recites a user interface connected to the file navigator and selecting the encoded audio/video data stream to be obtained. Such a feature is not found in the cited references.

The final rejection cites a combination of portions of *Mishina* and *Mincer* as satisfying this feature. However, the cited portion of *Mishina* (column 10, lines 5-25) is reproduced above and contains no description of a user interface enabling selection of a file (rather than of a video title made up of multiple files). The cited portion of *Mincer* reads:

In the latter case, a simple user interface, such as a menu interface, may be employed for selection of the desired program information and the playback station. For example, a menu of the available items of audio/video program information, as named by the user or by the system, may be presented. The user may make a selection through cursor control keys on a keyboard

Mincer, column 8, lines 1-8. Nothing in the above description suggests a user interface that allows the user to select files, rather than video titles.

Claim 12

Claim 12 recites that the one or more decoding standards according to which the reprogrammable proxy filter can decode and convert component data streams can be updated via software – that is, changes to existing standards may be added by software for use by the reprogrammable proxy filter. Such a feature is not found in the cited references. The cited portions of *Mincer et al* merely suggest that playback units 41, 42 . . . 4n may each decompress audio/video data according to any of a plurality of compression standards, without making any mention of updating those standards by software or otherwise accommodating changes to the standards.

Claim 13

Claim 13 recites that a new decoding standard according to which the reprogrammable proxy filter can decode and convert component data streams can be added to the one or more decoding standards via software. Such a feature is not found in the cited references. The cited portions of *Mincer et al* make no mention of adding support for additional standards.

2. GROUND OF REJECTION #2

Claims 18 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over *Mishina* in view of *Yonemitsu* and *Mincer*, and further in view of *Baumgartner et al*.

These claims depend from claims 1 and 25, discussed above, and are patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons discussed above. *Baumgartner et al* does not disclose the features identified above as missing from the remaining cited prior art.

CONCLUSION

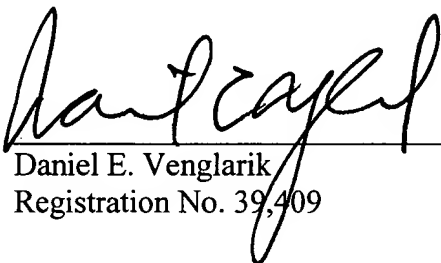
The cited references do not depict or describe all features of the claimed invention in the appealed claims. Therefore, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are improper. Applicant respectfully requests that the Board of Appeals reverse the decision of the Examiner below rejecting the pending claims in the application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 4-16-2010


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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Filed : December 8, 1998
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STREAMS FOR RENDERING AT LEAST TWO VIDEO
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Examiner : Huy Thanh Nguyen
Confirmation No. : 6383

MAIL STOP APPEAL BRIEF – PATENTS

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APPENDIX A

PENDING CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. A digital audio/video decoder comprising:

a file reader capable of obtaining any of one or more files containing encoded

audio/video data streams from a data source;

a video application program interface providing data for presenting a list of the one or more files to a user and enabling the user to select from among the one or more files;

a file navigator enabling selection of a particular file on the data source in response to user selection of the particular file and instructing the file reader to obtain a selected encoded audio/video data stream from a corresponding file on the data source;

a splitter separating the encoded audio/video data stream obtained by the file reader into one or more component data streams; and

a reprogrammable proxy filter that is reprogrammable to accommodate any combination of any one of MPEG-1, MPEG-2 and MPEG-3 video data with any one of AC-3, MPEG or PCM audio data and adapted to programmably operate on video data coded according to any one of a plurality of video data coding standards and on audio data separately coded according to any one of a plurality of audio data coding standards, the proxy filter decoding and converting the one or more component data streams into three or more renderable signals including at least one renderable audio signal and at least two renderable video signals.

2. The digital audio/video decoder as recited in claim 1, further comprising a user interface connected to the file navigator for selecting a file containing the encoded audio/video data stream to be obtained.

3. The digital audio/video decoder as recited in claim 2, wherein the user interface further comprises more than one predefined functions for selecting the encoded audio/video data stream to be obtained.

4. The digital audio/video decoder as recited in claim 3, wherein the more than one predefined functions comprise:

- a play function;
- a pause function;
- a menu function;
- a stop function;
- a previous function; and
- a next function.

5. The digital audio/video decoder as recited in claim 2, wherein the one or more component data streams further comprises:

- an audio data stream;
- a video data stream;
- a subpicture data stream; and
- a navigation data stream.

6. The digital audio/video decoder as recited in claim 5, wherein the file navigator is coupled to the splitter such that the file navigator can use the navigation data stream to select the file containing the encoded audio/video data stream to be obtained according to one or more selection signals received from the user interface.

7. The digital audio/video decoder as recited in claim 1, wherein the reprogrammable proxy filter further comprises:

an audio decoder;

a video decoder; and

a subpicture decoder,

wherein each of the audio decoder, the video decoder and the subpicture decoder may be selectively updated or replaced within the proxy filter.

8. The digital audio/video decoder as recited in claim 1, wherein the reprogrammable proxy filter can decode and convert component data streams that conform to one or more of an MPEG coding standard, a Dolby AC-3 coding standard, a PCM coding standard.

Claims 9–10. (Canceled)

11. The digital audio/video decoder as recited in claim 1, wherein the reprogrammable proxy filter uses one or more decoding standards to decode and convert the one or more component data streams.

12. The digital audio/video decoder as recited in claim 11, wherein the one or more decoding standards can be updated via software.

13. The digital audio/video decoder as recited in claim 11, wherein a new decoding standard can be added to the one or more decoding standards via software.

14. The digital audio/video decoder as recited in claim 1, wherein the three or more renderable signals comprise:

- a renderable audio signal;
- a renderable video signal; and
- a renderable subpicture signal.

15. The digital audio/video decoder as recited in claim 14, further comprising a mixer for combining the renderable subpicture signal with the renderable video signal and producing a combined video signal.

16. The digital audio/video decoder as recited in claim 1, wherein the reprogrammable proxy filter further comprises a function for synchronizing the three or more renderable signals.

17. The digital audio/video decoder as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

an audio renderer coupled to the reprogrammable proxy filter and an audio application program interface, the audio renderer controlling the manipulation and rendering of an audio signal from the three or more renderable signals; and

a video renderer coupled to the reprogrammable proxy filter and a video application program interface, the video renderer controlling the manipulation and rendering of a video signal from the three or more renderable signals.

18. The digital audio/video decoder as recited in claim 17, further comprising:

a sound card;

a video graphics adapter; and

a video driver for receiving the rendered video signal from the video application program interface and controlling the video graphics adapter such that a video output signal is produced from the rendered video signal.

19. The digital audio/video decoder as recited in claim 17, wherein the data source is a digital video disk (DVD), the digital audio/video decoder further comprising:

a DVD device driver; and

a DVD drive,

wherein the file reader accesses the DVD through the DVD device driver and DVD drive.

20. A digital audio/video decoder comprising:

a file reader capable of obtaining any of one or more files containing encoded audio/video data streams from a data source;

a video application program interface providing data for presenting a list of the one or more files to a user and enabling the user to select from among the one or more files;

a navigator enabling selection of a particular file on the data source in response to user selection of the particular file and instructing the file reader to obtain a selected encoded audio/video data stream from a corresponding file on the data source;

a user interface connected to the navigator and having one or more predefined functions for selecting an encoded audio/video data stream to be obtained;

a splitter separating the encoded audio/video data stream obtained by the file reader into an audio data stream, a video data stream, a subpicture data stream and a navigation data stream, wherein the navigator is coupled to the splitter such that the navigator can use the navigation data stream to select the encoded audio/video data stream to be obtained;

an audio filter adapted to programmably operate on audio data coded according to any one of a plurality of audio data coding standards, the audio filter decoding and converting the audio data stream into a renderable audio signal;

a video filter adapted to programmably operate on video data coded according to any one of a plurality of video data coding standards separately of an audio data coding standard currently employed by the audio filter, the video filter decoding and converting the video data stream into a renderable video signal,

wherein the video filter and the audio filter are reprogrammable to accommodate any combination of any one of MPEG-1, MPEG-2 and MPEG-3 video data with any one of AC-3, MPEG or PCM audio data;

a subpicture filter decoding and converting the subpicture data stream into a renderable subpicture signal;

a mixer combining the renderable subpicture signal with the renderable video signal and producing a combined video signal;

a synchronizing filter synchronizing the renderable audio signal and the combined video signal;

an audio renderer coupled to the audio decoder and an audio application program interface, the audio renderer controlling the manipulation and rendering of an audio signal from the renderable audio signal; and

a video renderer coupled to the mixer and a video application program interface, the video renderer controlling the manipulation and rendering of a video signal from the combined video signal.

Claims 21–24. (Canceled)

25. A digital audio/video system comprising:

a DVD drive;

a file reader communicably coupled to the DVD drive to obtain any of one or more files containing encoded audio/video data streams from the DVD drive utilizing a file system;

a video application program interface providing data for presenting a list of the one or more files to a user and enabling the user to select from among the one or more files;

a navigator communicably coupled to the file reader enabling selection of a particular file on the data source in response to user selection of the particular file and selectively instructing the file reader to obtain a particular encoded audio/video data stream corresponding to a selected file from the DVD drive;

a splitter communicably coupled to the file reader and separating the encoded audio/video data stream into one or more data streams;

a reprogrammable proxy filter communicably coupled to the splitter that is reprogrammable to accommodate any combination of any one of MPEG-1, MPEG-2 and MPEG-3 video data with any one of AC-3, MPEG or PCN audio data and adapted to programmably operate on video data coded according to any one of a plurality of video data coding standards and separately on audio data coded according to any one of a plurality of audio data coding standards, the proxy filter decoding and converting the one or more component data streams into three or more renderable signals including at least one renderable audio signal and at least two renderable video signals;

a mixer communicably coupled to the reprogrammable proxy filter and combining the at least two renderable video signals and producing a combined video signal;

an audio renderer coupled to the reprogrammable proxy filter and an audio application program interface, the audio renderer controlling the manipulation and rendering of the at least one renderable audio signal; and

a video renderer coupled to the mixer and a video application program interface, the video renderer controlling the manipulation and rendering of the combined video signal.

26. The digital audio/video system as recited in claim 25, further comprising a user interface connected to the file navigator and selecting the encoded audio/video data stream to be obtained.

27. The digital audio/video system as recited in claim 26, wherein the user interface further comprises more than one predefined function for selecting the encoded audio/video data stream to be obtained.

Claims 28–30. (Canceled)

31. The digital audio/video system as recited in claim 25, wherein the reprogrammable proxy filter uses one or more decoding standards to decode and convert the one or more component data streams and contains software that may be selectively updated or replaced.

32. The digital audio/video system as recited in claim 25, wherein the reprogrammable proxy filter further comprises a function for synchronizing the three or more renderable signals.

33. The digital audio/video system as recited in claim 25, further comprising:

a sound card;

an audio driver receiving the rendered audio signal from the audio application program interface and controlling the sound card such that an audio output signal is produced from the rendered audio signal;

a video graphics adapter; and

a video driver receiving the rendered video signal from the video application program interface and controlling the video graphics adapter such that a video output signal is produced from the rendered video signal.

DOCKET NO. 97-S-159C1 (STMI01-97159)
Customer No. 30425



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : Darryn McDade, et al.
U.S. Serial No. : 09/207,136
Filed : December 8, 1998
For : SYSTEM AND APPARATUS FOR DIGITAL AUDIO/VIDEO
DECODER SPLITTING SIGNAL INTO COMPONENT DATA
STREAMS FOR RENDERING AT LEAST TWO VIDEO
SIGNALS (AS AMENDED)
Group No. : 2621
Examiner : Huy Thanh Nguyen
Confirmation No. : 6383

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APPENDIX B

EVIDENCE APPENDIX

None

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APPENDIX C

RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

None



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Sir:

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